

Washington - Congresswoman Linda T. Sánchez secured a win for Southern California's environment and water supply today, when the U.S. House of Representatives passed her bill, the "Southern California Water Augmentation Study Act" (H.R. 4545).

The Water Augmentation Study, an innovative project by the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers Watershed Council in conjunction with the United States Bureau of Reclamation, is developing systems to improve the local water supply and reduce ocean pollution. The Sánchez bill will enable the project to move from the study phase to begin the construction of a local pilot project in L.A. County.

"This is a good day for Southern California," said Congresswoman Sánchez. "This local pilot project will demonstrate that even small changes in the way we build our communities can reduce ocean pollution and improve the quality of drinking water. This is a smart step towards making our region more self-sufficient and less dependent on drinking water sources outside of the Los Angeles area."

For four years, Congresswoman Sánchez has organized the efforts among 10 local Members of Congress, with the particular help of Congresswoman Grace Napolitano, to address the regional needs of increasing our local water supply and reducing stormwater pollution.

Congresswoman Sánchez secured \$1.05 million in federal appropriations over the last three years to fund the Water Augmentation Study. This spring, she secured support for an additional \$250,000 to complete the study phase of the project, which includes the pre-construction planning of the local pilot project.

"We need drinking water and environmental protections for families today and for future generations," said Congresswoman Sánchez. "It doesn't get any more basic than that."

"I am proud that my bill earned broad support from both Democratic and Republican colleagues," added Congresswoman Sánchez. "This bi-partisan support shows that people here in Washington increasingly understand the need to make smart investments - now - to protect the environment and scarce water supply in Southern California and across the country."

The Sánchez bill will now be considered by the U.S. Senate, before it can be signed into law by President Bush.